

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
January 24, 2011

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer

Mayor Paterson asked for a moment of silence in honor of and in celebration of the life of Tim Quinn who recently passed away. The Mayor noted that the Town has lost a great community person and that Mr. Quinn worked for over 50 years to make Mansfield a better place to live.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2011 Special meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2011 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded to move Item 3, Appointment of Council Member, as the next item of business. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective January 24, 2011, to appoint Paul Shapiro to serve as a member of the Town Council, to fill the vacancy created by Gregory Haddad's resignation from the Council for the term ending November 14, 2011. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shapiro was sworn in as a member of the Town Council by the Town Clerk and was welcomed by the Councilors and staff.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, expressed her concern with the action taken by the Council regarding the terms of appointment to the Ethics Board and contended the Council does not have the right to take any action other than three year appointments.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, questioned the agreement made with EDR and asked if the tax abatement provided was a way to avoid a referendum on the issue.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, provided an email sent to Council members (attached) and expressed his concern that many decisions are predetermined by the majority of the Council. He suggested the second opportunity for public comment and Town Council office hours be reinstated.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, took issue with comments presented at the last Council meeting regarding civil discourse.

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Howard Raphaelson, Timber Drive, noted that many times the efforts of citizens, like those of Tim Quinn, are not recognized and thanked the Councilors for all their efforts and dedicated service. Mr. Raphaelson has spoken to many citizens who do not feel the need to express their opinions regarding the operation of Town government because they are happy with the way the Town is being managed.

IV. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

Report attached.

Town Manager Matt Hart welcomed Councilor Shapiro. Mr. Hart also announced the retirement plans of Director of Planning Greg Padick.

Mr. Hart reported that the issues with the septic system at Jensen's still exists, it was the issue with the water that has been addressed.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson announced that Ms. Moran will chair the Personnel Committee and Mr. Shapiro will chair the Committee on Committees. The Mayor requested the Republican members of the Council let her know if they have any suggested changes for their assignments.

Ms. Moran announced the letter presented at the last meeting regarding public discourse has been amended and sent to the Chronicle as a personal letter.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Status Report on Assisted/Independent Living Project

Councilor Shapiro recused himself from the discussion as he is the Chairman of the Board of New Samaritan, a company with similar business interest.

John Paul Venoit, Senior Vice President of Residential Services of Masonicare, updated the Council on the proposed independent/assisted living project. The main challenge yet to be addressed is a water source for the project. The company has a meeting with UConn on February 4, 2011 to discuss the possibility of a water connection. If that is not possible, Masonicare will look at other locations in Town. Staff will attend the meeting on February 4th and will report back to the Council.

2. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren and Four Corners Water and Sewer Advisory Committee Chair Gene Nesbit updated the Council on the preliminary findings outlined in the draft Water Source Study prepared by Environmental Partners. The site identified with the most potential is in the Eagleville Lake area. The Committee requested the report be put on the Town's website and distributed to committees who might have an interest in the subject.

Town Manager Matt Hart has had initial conversations with the Town Manager in Coventry regarding the possibility of a joint venture.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

3. Appointment of Council Member

See Above

4. Meet with State Legislators

State Representative Gregory Haddad outlined some of the significant economic challenges facing the State, noting that more will be known after the Governor unveils his budget on February 16th. Mr. Haddad has offered a number of bills this session concerning allocation of expenses in Regional School Districts, space allocation and school construction reimbursement, and clarification of the jurisdiction of special police forces within municipalities. Mr. Haddad has been appointed to serve on the Appropriations Committee, the Commerce Committee (Vice-Chair) and the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

5. Appointment to Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors
Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to appoint Deputy Mayor Antonia Moran to the Board of Directors of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, for a term commencing on January 24, 2011 and expiring on June 30, 2012.
Motion passed unanimously.

6. Proposed Open Space Acquisition – Penner Property, White Oak Drive/Jonathan Lane/Fieldstone Drive
Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on February 14, 2011, to solicit public comment regarding the potential acquisition of the Penner property located between White Oak Drive, Jonathan Lane and Fieldstone Drive. In addition, this potential acquisition shall be referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
Motion passed unanimously.

7. Town Manager's Goals
Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective January 24, 2011, to endorse the Town Manager's Goals and Objectives for FY 2010/11.
Council members agreed to review the timing of the Town Manager's evaluation and his subsequent goals and objectives statement.
Motion to approve the goals and objectives as presented passed unanimously.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Chair of the Finance Committee Bill Ryan noted the Committee will be reviewing the recently completed audit reports.

X. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

8. J. Russell re: Town of Mansfield Website's Search Functions
9. Storrs Center Phases 1A and 1B Zoning Permit Application
10. Legal Notice: Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports
11. Governor Daniel P. Malloy Inaugural Message
12. Regions as Partners: Recommendations to Governor-Elect Malloy

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13. Malloy/Wyman Transition Team: Final Report of the Policy Committee
14. Executive Summary: Report to the Connecticut General Assembly From the Sustinet Health Partnership Board of Directors
15. Department of Children and Families re: Heart Gallery
16. Report of the Task Force to De-Escalate Spring Weekend
17. CCM in the News: Fighting to protect state aid to CT towns and cities
18. Chronicle "Letters to the Editor" – 01-05-11
19. Chronicle "Thumbs up for Storrs Center agreement" – 01-05-11
20. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 01-07-11
21. Chronicle "Big crowds, big nuisance" – 01-11-11
22. Chronicle "EDR apologizes for filing error" – 01-12-11
23. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 01-12-11
24. Chronicle "Letters to the Editor" – 01-14-11
25. Chronicle "Council elects new deputy mayor to replace Haddad" – 01-15-11
26. Chronicle "Hearing postponed; PZC will mull Storrs Center" – 01-17-11

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

No additional items noted.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Members reviewed the options available to them to discuss strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Keane seconded a motion to adjourn.

Motion passed by all.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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